

Office of Water Protection
Significant Program Accomplishments Fiscal Year 2017

Strategic Goals - Goal 2: Protecting America's Waters

- Issued first in the nation draft UIC Class III and V permits and proposed aquifer exemption for the Dewey-Burdock project, an in-situ uranium recovery project in the Black Hills area of South Dakota. Because this area is identified as a sacred site for many tribes, EPA will continue to offer meaningful consultation to interested tribes throughout the UIC permitting process.
- Issued EPA's draft oversight report on the North Dakota Industrial Commission's (NDIC) UIC program that identified some deficiencies in the State's implementation of its Class II program. Met with the NDIC to discuss their comments on the report, reached initial agreement on correcting some deficiencies, and updated the draft report to ensure accuracy.
- Issued a formal denial of American Gilsonite Company's request to exempt a portion of the Birds Next Aquifer in Utah's Uinta Basin for fluid disposal from its mine dewatering operations. The EPA's Record of Decision documented the technical basis for why protection of the BNA as an USDW immediately outside the exempted area could not be reasonably assured.
- Promulgated rulemaking through the Office of Water and Administrator proposing EPA approval of North Dakota's UIC Class VI program regulating long-term storage of carbon dioxide. EPA's approval would authorize implementation of the first State Class VI program in the nation.
- Issued formal denial of a UIC Class V permit application submitted for the Winona Inn/Lodge at Mount Rushmore for the facility's large capacity septic systems. EPA's denial sustained closure of these failed systems until the applicant can ensure EPA, Pennington County, and the SDDENR that future operations will not impact local USDWs and nearby public water systems.